



*The purpose of this document is to provide regular updates to Alaskan educators and members of the public about the implementation of the new Alaska assessment for grades 3-10, Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP). New information will be **bolded** and the date of the document will be in both the title and the footer as well as summarized on the last page. Contact elizabeth.davis@alaska.gov for more information or visit www.akassessments.org.*

Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Program Includes 4 Components: the Technology Practice Test, Testlets, Interim Assessment, and the Summative

Technology Practice Test: The practice test were made available in September 2014. The focus of the practice test is to give students experience with the online assessment technology. There are three practice tests: grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-10. Each practice test will have traditional item types, such as multiple choice, and items that utilize technology-enhanced items (TE's), such as dropdown menus or drawing lines. Students, teachers, and members of the community have unlimited access to the practice test.

Resources for teachers include video tutorials, strategies for how to introduce the testlets to your students, and answer keys.

<http://education.alaska.gov/akassessments/>

Testlets, *Assessments for Learning*: The testlets are short, 8-10 item tests available to teachers to use to inform their instruction. These optional, no-stakes assessment tools are designed to give teachers information on student progress on individual standards. Teachers select which testlets to give to students and when to administer them. The testlets are available beginning in January 2015. Student and teacher rosters must be uploaded into the KITE Educator Portal for teachers to access the Testlets.

Resources for teachers include video tutorials and strategies for how to use the testlets with your students. These will be posted in February, 2015.

Interim Benchmark Assessment: The optional interim assessment will be available to districts beginning in fall 2016. The purpose of the interim assessment is to provide information on students' progress on grade-level standards in English language arts and math. The assessments are given twice per year, in fall and winter. AMP Interim will be scored on the same scale as the summative. The purpose of the Interim assessment is to provide teachers with information to guide instruction. This is one year later than our previous implementation schedule. This change was made to allow time for our test developer to design an assessment that can be used effectively to guide instruction for teachers. The interim assessment will not be approved by the commissioner for use in educator evaluation; it is not designed for this purpose.

Summative Assessment: The summative assessment measures students’ mastery of the Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics standards in grades 3-10.

English Language Arts

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening

25 Questions

15 Questions

15 Questions

15 Questions

Two
content
tests

Four
sections
per
content
test.

One
ticket
per
section.

Math

- Concepts & Procedures
- Problem Solving
- Communicating & Reasoning

25 Questions

15 Questions

15 Questions

15 Questions

The summative assessment will have two **content tests**, English language arts and mathematics. The summative assessments will have 70 items per content area (ELA & math) delivered in **sections**. Each assessment will start with a **section** of 25 items, followed by three **sections** of 15 items. Although the assessment is not timed, each content test will take most students between two and three hours.

The summative assessment will be rolled out over three years.

- Spring 2015: Fixed Form.
- Spring 2016: Field test ELA listening and essay items; field test math constructed response items. Keyboarding will be necessary for these items. (Note: items that are field tested are not included in a student’s score).

The Summative Assessment Framework: The Framework provides educators information about the Alaska Standards as measured by AMP. The Frameworks do the following:

1. **Organize the standards around big ideas (Claims).** A Claim is a broad statement that outlines the outcomes that demonstrate mastery of the standards.
2. **Describe specific skills required of students in order to be successful on AMP through Targets.** Targets are groups of related standards.
3. **Create a content emphasis to form a bridge between standards, assessment, and instruction.** This bridge can help educators analyze how a lesson or unit engages a student's cognitive process and what level of cognitive rigor (Depth of Knowledge) it requires.

The Frameworks were developed with feedback from Alaskan educators and are now available. Additional support materials (tutorials, professional development activities) will be available soon.

http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/AMPresources/Summative_Assessment_Framework.pdf

Computer-based Assessment and Technology-rich Instruction: Alaska's English Language Arts and Math Standards prepare students for success after graduation. Technology is an essential part of this preparation. A computer-based assessment provides multiple benefits for students, including increased engagement and items that are able to efficiently and effectively measure complex skills. A computer-based assessment also aligns with the technology skills and concepts in our standards.

<http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/AMPresources/TechnologyELAMathStandards.pdf>

Vocabulary on the Summative: Vocabulary in the ELA standards is addressed differently than in our previous GLEs. The assessment measures students' vocabulary skills as defined by the standards.

http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/AMPresources/Language_VocabularyAMP_010715.pdf

Scheduling: Districts and schools may schedule testing periods that include all four sections in a single day or the sections can be administered over several days. Schedules can be individualized for students. Schedules for all schools in a district, all grades in a school, and all students in a grade/classroom do not have to be the same. Students may take either content test (ELA, math) first; students may also take one or more sections of ELA and math on the same day (e.g., section 1 ELA in the morning, section 1 math in the afternoon). Students must take the sections in order.

Scoring: Students will receive scores from 1-4, with 1 being the lowest score and 4 being the highest. The score of 3 is the "meets standard" score. Score descriptions, called Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs), were reviewed by Alaskan educators on September 17, 2014. Final versions of the ALDs will not be published until after the State Board of Education approves the standard setting cut scores and the ALDs; these will be brought before the board and available for public comment following the July standard setting event.

Technology: Most students will take the computer-based assessment. EED and the Achievement & Assessment Institute (AAI) will work with schools in the summer and fall of 2014 to assist them in getting ready for the online delivery. AMP is administered using a test delivery engine called KITE. It can be installed on desktops, laptops, and tablets. EED strongly recommends that districts download the KITE Client on all district devices no later than October 31, 2014. Once the KITE Client is open all other applications on the device are inaccessible, making the test administration secure. The Chromebook app and the iPad app are both available in the Chrome Web Store and the App Store. **More information on allowed devices and downloading the KITE Client is available at <http://akassessments.org/kite>. Note: tests taken on non-allowed devices (e.g., iPad minis or Netbooks) will be invalidated. Students will not receive a score and will be considered non-participatory for purposes of school accountability.**

Support for Computer-based Administration of AMP: AAI's Technology Support Team will work with districts that may have technological capacity challenges. Districts can contact the help desk at amp_support@ku.edu or by calling, toll free, 855-277-9752. Additionally, AAI has hired Alaskan technology liaisons who will provide additional virtual and on-site assistance to districts and schools. Districts access this assistance through the help desk.

Local Caching System: AMP utilizes a Local Caching System (LCS). An LCS is an application that is loaded onto a laptop or desktop; the LCS enables testing to continue if there is minimal bandwidth. It can be used at the district, school, or classroom level. **On February 6, 2015 an offline LCS will be made available to schools.**

Information for families and communities: EED is working with AAI to develop a variety of materials and other methods to communicate to students, families, and communities about the new assessment. Brochures for educators and for families were mailed to schools in August and are also be available on the EED website under the yellow Parents & Community star.

Opportunities for Educator Involvement: 30 educators participated in two passage writing workshops this summer, held in partnership with UAF and UAS. Passages written during these workshops will be used for the assessment, and some writers will be commissioned to write additional passages. More workshops are planned for the summer of 2015. In addition, Alaskan educators reviewed the Technology Practice Test in July and provided valuable feedback to AAI for bias and sensitivity as well as user experience. Over 900 educators are currently in the AMP database and are participating in panels for the review of items for the assessment. **Educators will be needed for the standard setting and the alignment study review.** To apply complete the application at http://bit.ly/amp_reviews_2014.

Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Information Document

Jan. 20, 2015

The AMP Assessment Window: In 2015, the window will be five weeks long: Monday, March 30 – Friday, May 1. Unlike the paper/pencil SBAs, not all students in a district will take the computer-based assessment on the same days.

The deadlines in the chart designate when students should be finished with testing. If a student is absent and needs to make-up one or more sections of the test, this may occur any time within the 5 week window.

Grade level	Complete testing by:
3, 7	April 10
4,8	April 17
5,9	April 24
6,10	May 1

The chart below shows the testing window through the frame of “designated testing weeks” for each grade level. Two options are shown. Option A may accommodate larger elementary/middle/high schools with single-grade classrooms; option B may be a better fit for smaller K-12 schools. However, districts are not restricted to either option; districts are encouraged to test all students as early in the window as is feasible.

	AMP Option A		AMP Option B
Week 1 March 30-April 3	Begin Grade 3, Grade 7		
Week 2 April 6-10	Begin Grade 4, Grade 8	Finish Grade 3, Grade 7	Begin and finish Grade 3,4,7,8
Week 3 April 13-17	Begin Grade 5, Grade 9	Finish Grade 4, Grade 8	Begin and finish Grades 5,6,9,10
Week 4 April 20-24	Begin Grade 6, Grade 10	Finish Grade 5, Grade 9	
Week 5 April 27-May 1		Finish Grade 6, Grade 10	

AMP Paper/pencil Assessment Window: Students who need a paper/pencil test as an accommodation and schools with a waiver from computer-based testing for 2015 will administer the paper/pencil AMP on district-designated days within April 13-24, 2015. If more than one school in a district is approved for paper/pencil administration, they must administer the assessment on the same two days. Students must take the same portions of the assessment on the same day (e.g., all students must take the first math section on the same day).

	<i>AMP paper/pencil Students with p/p as an accommodation and approved schools only</i>
Week 1 March 30-April 3	
Week 2 April 6-10	
Week 3 April 13-17	<i>Approved schools will designate testing days for all students within this window. Makeup p/p tests must also be completed during these two weeks.</i>
Week 4 April 20-24	
Week 5 April 27-May 1	

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Jan. 20, 2015

Science: The Alaska science content standards have not been revised and there is currently no date for when this revision may happen. The science test for grades 4, 8, and 10 is not changing at this time. The paper/pencil science assessment in 2015 will continue to be managed by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). Districts must administer the science test March 30 – April 10, 2015. All students of the same grade level must take the science assessment on the same day. Science will be administered as part of our computer-based assessment beginning in spring 2016; it will assess our current science content standards.

Accessibility and Accommodations: Students will have access to a greater variety of accessibility tools as part of the computer-based assessment system. These tools are described in detail in the Participation Guidelines. Universal Tools are for all students, are accessible at all times, and include: highlighter, striker, eraser, tags, guideline, search, calculators on portions of the test, and text-to-speech for directions. Accessibility Tools are available to students with any type of documented need; these tools include auditory calming, masking, and text-to-speech on the math portion of the test for items, answer choices, and graphics. Accommodation Tools are available to students with disabilities and students who are English language learners. The embedded Accommodation Tools in AMP include color contrast, text-to-speech on ELA items and answer choices (this does not include ELA passages), and one or two switch scanning. **More information on these requirements and tools is available in the Participation Guidelines and the Handbook for the Participation Guidelines.**

<http://education.alaska.gov/akassessments/#c3gtabs-accom>

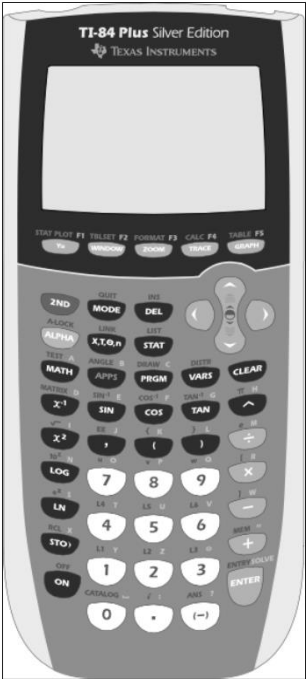
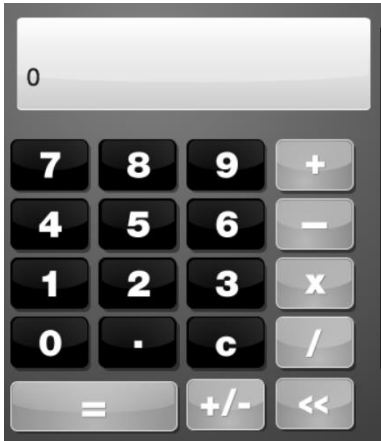
Some accommodations that were allowed for the previous assessment, the SBAs, are not allowed on AMP because it interferes with accurately measuring the skill. Math reference sheets, calculators, and teacher-made graphic organizers are not allowed.

[http://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/math/resources/Math Formulas in the AK Mathematics Standards.pdf](http://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/math/resources/Math_Formulas_in_the_AK_Mathematics_Standards.pdf)

Calculator Usage for the AMP Computer-based Assessment: Alaska mathematics standards were developed with a strong focus on building foundational skills and fluency in arithmetic, specifically in Kindergarten through grade 5. Arithmetic is a foundational skill that requires fluency as well as building conceptual richness, which is a precursor for algebraic concepts. The standards were developed to have students gain a deeper understanding of mathematics and to use a variety of strategies to come to mathematical solutions. Thus, working with numbers by hand was purposeful in the design of the standards in the formative grades. Based on this information, calculators are not allowable for grades 3, 4, and 5 on the AMP assessment.

Students will have access to three different calculators as Universal Tools within the KITE test engine. The specific type of calculator depends on grade level and is shown in the table below. Calculators are available for specific items only. Students will not have access to a calculator on test items that require the student to demonstrate direct knowledge of computational skills.

	Basic	Scientific	Graphing
Grades 3, 4, and 5			
Grades 6, 7, and 8	Available	Available	
Grades 9 and 10	Available		Available
BASIC (FOUR FUNCTION)		SCIENTIFIC (TI-30XS Emulator)	GRAPHING (TI-84 Emulator)



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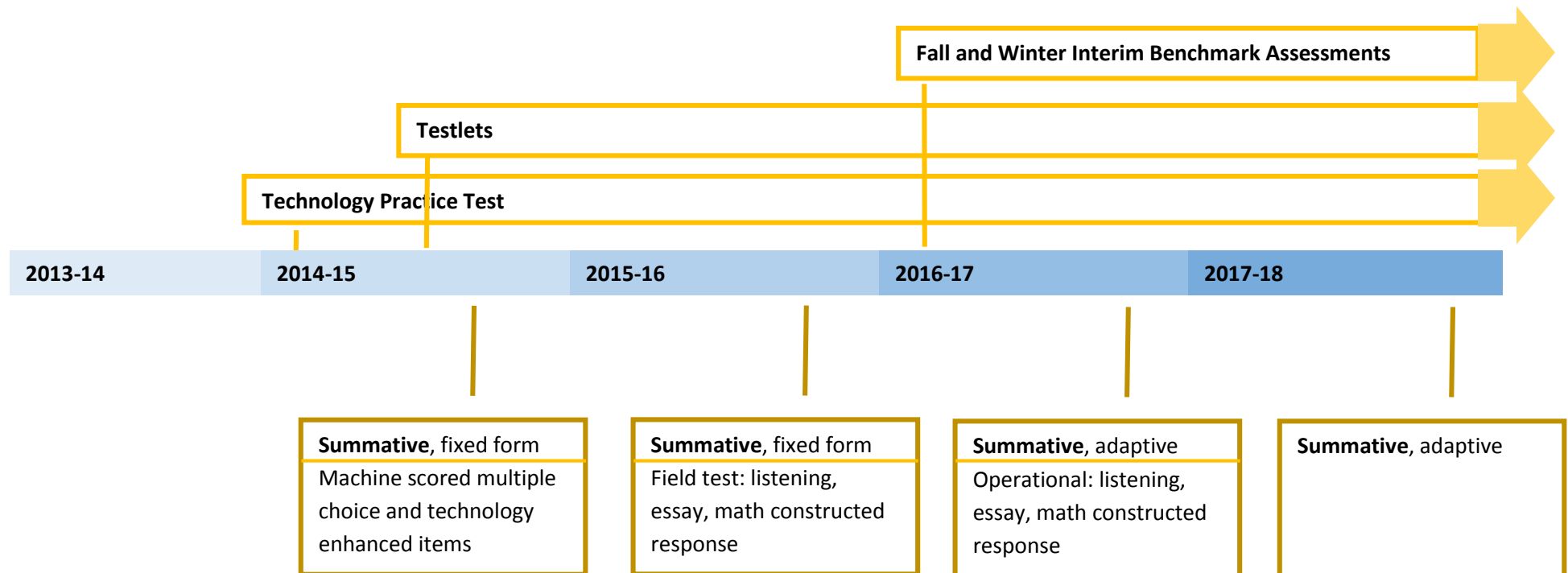
Jan. 20, 2015

Assessment Activities Timeline (2014-15)

- July 2014: Practice Test item remote-review (bias and sensitivity)
- Summer & Fall 2014: Item reviews with Alaskan Educators begin; ongoing
- August 2014: AMP rollout activities begin; ongoing through year
- September 2014: Technology Practice Test available; will be available throughout year
- September 17: Achievement Level Descriptor Review Meeting
- November 10-11; February 25-27: District Test Coordinator Trainings
- January 2015: Testlets available
- March 30 – May 1 2015: AMP online test window
- July 7- 10, 2015: Standard Setting Meeting for 2015 assessment



Assessment Development Timeline



ACRONYMS	
AAI	Achievement & Assessment Institute
ALD	Achievement Level Descriptor
AMP	Alaska Measures of Progress
CBA	Computer-based Assessment
LCS	Local Caching System
TE	Technology-Enhanced item
TPT	Technology Practice Test
GLOSSARY	
Achievement Level Descriptors	Achievement level descriptors (ALDs) are a means of describing performance on a standardized test in terms of levels or categories of performance.
Adaptive Assessment	Assessments adjust in difficulty based on student performance, unlike fixed form assessments. Adaptive assessments provide greater score precision and provide an assessment experience for students that is “a good fit.”
Constructed Response Item	Items that require students to keyboard an answer, such as a short answer or essay question.
Fixed Form Assessment	A static assessment that does not adjust to student performance during testing.
Item (test item)	The question and answer choices.
KITE	Test Delivery Engine for the AMP assessments.
Technology Enhanced Item (TE)	Items other than standard multiple-choice.
Technology Practice Test	Short tests focused on providing students with experience in the technology-enhanced item types and the computer-based testing experience.

Updates 1/20/2015

Additional resources links added.
 Summative Frameworks
 Computer-based testing and technology in the Alaska standards.
 Vocabulary standards and the assessment.
 Scheduling information added.
 Non-allowed devices will result in invalidations.
 Clarification on test window and make-up testing.